

Second Information Circular for the Sept. 5-6, 2002 MEPAG Meeting

Letter of Invitation

I invite you to attend the next Mars Exploration Program Assessment Group meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday-Friday, September 5-6, 2002 in Pasadena, California. The meeting will be held at JPL.

We have several important things to discuss. NASA HQ has asked for MEPAG's input on planning issues related to the design of our Mars exploration program. A significant amount of sub-group work by MEPAG has been done over the past five months by three Science Steering Groups (SSGs): Pathways, MSR, and Astrobiology. We need to have the reports from these three groups presented to the full MEPAG for discussion, and if acceptable, endorsement. These reports will be used to support long-range planning for the second decade.

In addition, we will try to review the new findings from Mars Odyssey, and discuss how these would affect our priorities for exploration goals, investigations, and measurements. It is important that our program be responsive to discovery.

International participation in this meeting is solicited, both to provide breadth of experience and to exchange current plans for Mars exploration as widely as possible. Note that MEPAG does not currently have a designated list of members; all those who wish to contribute are welcome.

This meeting is important, and I hope you will be able to attend.

Sincerely,
Jack Farmer, MEPAG Chair

Draft Agenda:

September 5, Thursday Room 180-101

7:30-8:20 AM	JPL Visitor Center Check-in	
8:30	Welcome and Purpose of Meeting	J. Farmer
9:00	Mars Program Update and Guidance to MEPAG	O. Figueroa
9:45	Program Mission Status	F. Naderi
10:15	Break	
10:30	Decadal Survey Report	M. Belton
11:15	Program planning for Next Decade	D. McCleese, Moderator
11:30	- Pathways Science Steering Group Report	R. Arvidson
12:15	Lunch	
1:15	(Program Science Update)	J. Garvin
1:45	- Planning Process/Expectations	J. Garvin
2:30	- Astrobiology SSG Report	J. Farmer
3:00	- MSR SSG Report	G. MacPherson
4:00	- MSL Mission Planning	R. Arvidson/D. McCleese
4:45	Synthesis of Science Recommendations	J. Garvin
5:30	Adjourn	

September 6, Friday Room 180-101

8:00-8:30 AM	JPL Visitor Center Check-in	
8:30	Discussion of Science Input to Mars Program Plan	J. Farmer
8:45-9:00	JPL Director's remarks	C. Elachi
11:00	- Implications of Pathways for Missions	F. Jordan
11:45	MEPAG Report Writing Assignments	J. Farmer
12:15	Lunch	
1:15	Writing Groups Meet	
3:15	Reports from Writing Groups	
4:30	Brief NASA on Preliminary Recommendations	J. Farmer

5:00
5:30

Post-Meeting Tasks for Writing Groups
Adjourn

J. Farmer

Logistics

Dates: September 5-6, 2002.

Location: Room 180-101, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 4800 Oak Grove Dr., Pasadena, CA 91109.

Security: Things being the way they are, security has been tightened somewhat at JPL, and we will need certain information for ALL visitors prior to arrival. In fact, we are asking you to RSVP by **August 22nd** with the following information to Debbie.Calderon@jpl.nasa.gov:

US citizens:

Let us know you are coming, and bring a current driver's license or photo ID from a government agency or business/educational entity.

Foreign nationals: We will need by **August 22** the following:

Visitor's Name

Citizen of (Country)

For U.S. Permanent Residents, green card number

Affiliation and Job Title

Birthdate

Country of Passport Issuance

Passport Number

Passport Expiration Date

Visa Type (if required)

Visa Expiration Date

Everyone is encouraged to arrive at JPL early to be processed through Visitor Control, where we will match this information to you and issue badges. Those who do not already have existing JPL badges will have to be escorted to the meeting site and elsewhere on the Lab. We will be open for business from 7:30 AM on the first day. Note that pastries, coffee, etc. will be available at the meeting room at 7:30.

Hotel: A block of rooms has been set aside at the government rate of \$99 at the Marriott Courtyard, 180 N. Fair Oaks, (Old Town) Pasadena (www.courtyard.com; 626-403-7600), which is the nearest decent hotel to JPL (4 miles). This is 31 miles from LAX, and 14 miles from BUR, the Pasadena-Burbank-Glendale airport, which is smaller, much handier and less hassle to enter and leave, but has fewer flight connections.

Note: for computer driving directions, enter JPL as 4800 Oak Grove Dr., La Canada CA; the address is legally Pasadena but the maps don't compute this correctly. JPL is northwest of Pasadena, on the Oak Grove Dr. exit from the 210 Freeway.

Advance Planning for next MEPAG meeting

Tentative Dates: Wednesday-Thursday, February 26-27, 2003. Tuesday, February 25 reserved for committee work as needed. Please mark your calendars.

For more information, please contact Dr. Terry Martin, MEPAG meeting coordinator, Terry.Z.Martin@jpl.nasa.gov, phone = 818-354-2178; FAX = 818-393-4619. Please also let Terry know of any requested additions or deletions to the mailing list used for this circular.